

1. Based on the profiles you have read here, what were the main duties and responsibilities of the governor and the intendant? Which of the two appointments would you have preferred? Why?

New France was what historians call a hierarchical society. A hierarchy is an organization in which there are distinct levels that remain fairly separate. The education system is a good example of a hierarchy. There are the minister of education, the school board, superintendents, principals, teachers, and students. In New France, there were two hierarchies: the civil hierarchy and the religious hierarchy. You will read about the religious hierarchy in a later section. The civil hierarchy is illustrated in the chart below. Civil hierarchy is the hierarchy of general citizens, rather than a specific group, such as a religion or the military. The people highlighted in light blue were in France, and the people highlighted in yellow were in New France. The king, the viceroy, and the minister of the navy did not live in New France, but they made important decisions about it. The sovereign council made rules and laws about day-to-day affairs in the colony. The governor appointed members to the council, and the intendant saw that its rules and laws were obeyed. There were no elections. The people at the top controlled the government. The governor was the top official in New France. He was responsible for seeing that the king's orders were carried out. The governor was a symbol of the king, and was expected to act a bit like a king. He held lavish dances at his residence, inviting the top people to attend. With his family, he travelled around the colony each summer. The most famous governor of New France was Louis de Buade, Count Frontenac. He held the position from 1672 to 1682 and from 1689 to 1698. He was a French noble and had been an officer in the armies of France and Venice. But he was heavily in debt, and wanted to make his fortune in the colony. I would of rather had the governor's job because I think I that it would be easier than being the Intendant because the intendant job was harder and had a lot more jobs than the governor's duties.